



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Linda White
California Postsecondary Education Commission
1303 J Street, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814-2938
(916) 322-7984
lwhite@cpec.ca.gov

Commission Awards \$277,000 Grant to California State University, Sacramento and Sacramento County Office of Education to Improve Teaching and Learning

January 2004 --- California State University Sacramento will receive a three-year grant of \$277,000 in federal monies that have been earmarked for improving the quality of teaching. The project is designed to address the shortage of highly qualified science teachers prepared to teach in high poverty, diverse schools. Sacramento County Office of Education is the primary partner in the effort, and the project is expected to serve 230 teachers in five Sacramento area schools.

According to the proposal, one of the fundamental needs in this area is the development of a cadre of mentor teachers to train new teachers. School sites need mechanisms for school-wide reform to create high quality learning environments for student teachers. Specifically, project goals include improving teachers' fundamental science knowledge and pedagogy, and ability to integrate academic language development with science lessons.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission has been administering federal funds to improve teacher professional development since 1984. This year the Commission has made awards totaling over \$10 million in the *Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program*.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. Regarding this program, you may contact Dr. Jana Noel, or Dr. Judi Kusnick, at 916-278-4692.